
VICTORIAN *E*NTOMOLOGIST



VOL. 41 No. 3

June 2011

Print Post Approved PP 349018/00058

Price: \$3.00



News Bulletin of The Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at the 'Discovery Centre', Lower Ground Floor, Museum Victoria, Carlton Gardens, Melway reference Map 43 K5 at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of even months, with the exception of the December meeting which is held on the second Tuesday. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (2010)

Ordinary Member	\$30 (overseas members \$32)
Country Member	\$26 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne)
Student Member	\$18
Electronic (only)	\$20
Associate Member	\$7 (No News Bulletin)
Institution	\$35 (overseas Institutions \$40)

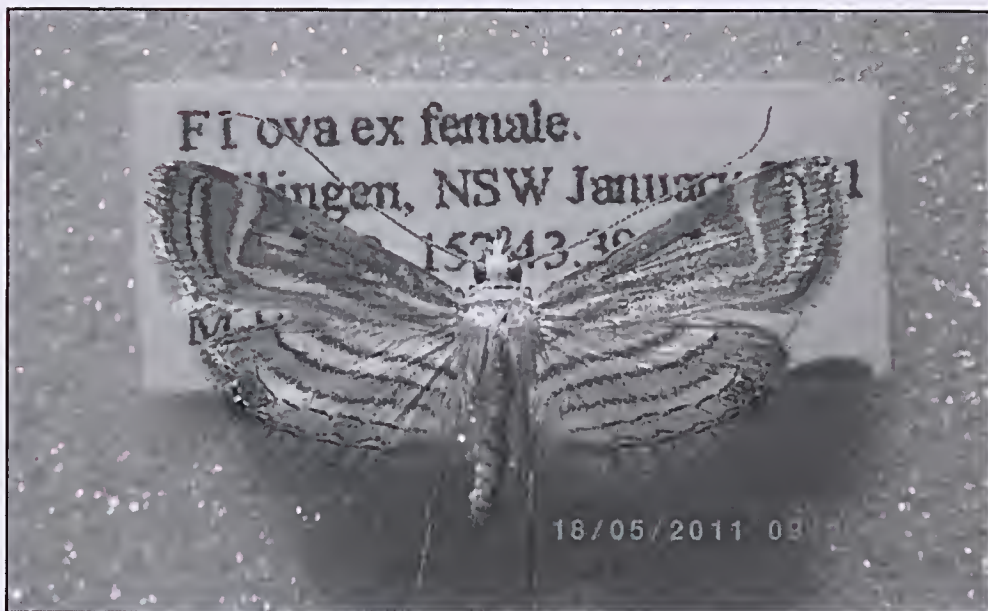
Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

LIFE MEMBERS: P. Carwardine, Dr. R. Field, D. Holmes, Dr. T. New, Dr. K. Walker.

Cover design by Alan Hyman.

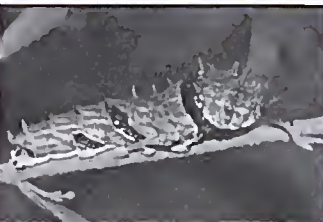
Cover photo: *Megaceria sp.* VE 41 (2) p39

Photographer John Tiddy, a member of the Victorian Nature Photography Group with an interest in insects, has provided this photo using a white background photography technique. In this case the wasp has its abdomen elevated due to the cold weather when it was found. An article expanding on this method of photography is included in the February 2011 bulletin.



Parapoynx villidalis (Walker, 1859) Photo by Mike Halsey
See article on page 51

Figure 3. Larva of *P. aegaeus*. Taylors Road, Mt Macedon, Vic. 17 March 2011 D. Francis; found on a garden-planted host, *Philotheca myoporoides* (Rutaceae) (Photo D. Francis).



An update on some unusual butterfly records in Victoria during the 2010-2011 season

See page 54

Figure 4. *P. aegaeus* female. At just south of De Motts Rd & Clarkes Rd Junction near Anakie, Vic. (37°54'S, 144° 13'E). 01 Feb 2011, C. Lindorff; basking on lime tree at 1543h DST (Photo C. Lindorff).

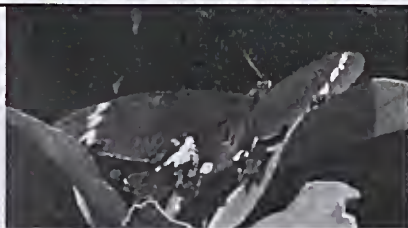


Figure 5. *P. aegaeus* male. 4km NNW of Riddells Creek, Vic. 7 Feb 2011, R. Best; basking on lemon tree at 1553h DST (Photo R. Best).



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 19 April 2011 at 20:00

Present:

Members: R. Best, P. Carwardine, K. Dunn, M. Endersby, I. Endersby, M. Fiedel, J. Grubb, K. Harris, M. Hewish, L. Levens, P. Lillywhite, P. Marriott, L. Rogan, D. Stewart, J. Tuttle

Visitor: M. Kosovan

Apologies:

S. Curle, D. Dobrosak, G. Hogg

Minutes:

Minutes of the previous AGM [*Vic. Ent.* 40(3): 45-47] were accepted (m. Stewart; s. Dunn)

President's Report

Once again the Society has posted an excellent year. We are seeing increased growth in meeting attendance with an even balance of interesting and challenging speakers, popular and informative members' nights and varied well-attended excursions. Topics ranged from aquatic invertebrates to effects of fire on butterflies in Queensland to Australian Hawk Moths. The excursion leading off 2011 to look at the live exhibits at the Melbourne Museum was very successful.

The ideas for meetings come from the council and members alike and this team effort has excellent results. Ideas for meetings are always welcome.

This last year has seen the transition from Daniel Dobrosak to Linda Rogan in the role of editor. Daniel, who has developed the Society's newsletter to an excellent standard, continues to mentor and assist in its distribution. The Council is looking at ways to increase the colour content and build up member notes on observations and brief notes.

Our publications continue to sell well and Moths of Victoria should have parts 3 and 4 published this year. Sales of Parts 1 and 2 have already covered the costs. Collecting and Sampling Insects also has been widely accepted and has sold very well.

We are fortunate to have committed and contributing membership of the Council and welcome new members to broaden the base.

At a time in Victoria's history when enormous pressures of development and individual greed place our common heritage at great risk, this Society, together with a wide network of local natural history groups, has a significant role to play.

Treasurer's Report.

The audited accounts for 2010 have been published in *Vic. Ent.* 41(2): 41-43. The General Account showed a surplus of \$827 for the year. The only expenditure from the Le Souëf was for Science talent Quest bursaries as there were no nominations received for the Le Souëf Award. The Publishing Account holds sufficient funds for at least the next two volumes of Moths of Victoria.

The Treasurer's report was received on the motion of I. Endersby (s. Lillywhite)
Sid Cowling was again appointed as auditor (m. Best; s. Carwardine)

Editor's Report

I have been participating in the editing of the Victorian Entomologist since August 2010. As I had hoped, I am finding it a good learning opportunity. At this stage I am putting the bulletin together and Daniel is doing the final editing and sending it to the printer as well as sending out the printed copies. I greatly appreciate his input as he invariably catches at least one mistake that could potentially be embarrassing. He will also continue to do the entire bulletin on occasions when I am away such as July and August. I believe we are working together well as a team.

My goal for the coming year is to be able to include varied material in each issue that reflects the range of knowledge, interest and enthusiasm of the members. For that I must depend on the membership. Please send in your observations, short trip notes, photos and items of interest as well as relevant articles. The next deadline is the third Friday i.e. 20th of May. I'm looking forward adding new contributors this year.

I would also like to have a different cover photo or drawing for each year. It would be great if these photos or drawings come from the membership. Please email any that you think may be appropriate. Assuming we receive more than one that is suitable, the council will decide which one will be used.

The council is also investigating the additional cost of moving to the option of colour in every issue.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the bulletin this year.

Le Souëf Award

No Nominations were received for the Award during 2010 in spite of the Award being promoted to all entomological societies in Australia, capital city field naturalist clubs, and state Royal Societies.

Reception of Reports

All reports were received (m. Marriott; s. Tuttle)

Amendments to Constitution.

Amendments to the Constitution, adjourned from the previous AGM due to a lack of a quorum, were passed at the General Meeting of 15 February 2011 and approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria, effective from 31 March 2011.

Election of Office Bearers and Council

No nominations had been received for any of the positions and no nominations were received from the floor of the meeting. Each of the following agreed to continue in the position of:

President	P. Marriott
Vice President	P. Carwardine
Honorary Secretary	S. Curle
Honorary Treasurer	I. Endersby
Editor	L. Rogan
Councillor	D. Dobrosak; M. Fiedel; P. Lillywhite

D. Stewart continues in the ex officio position of Immediate Past President.

The meeting was closed at 20:28

Present:

Members: R. Best, P. Carwardine, K. Dunn, M. Endersby, I. Endersby, M. Fiedel, J. Grubb, K. Harris, M. Hewish, L. Levens, P. Lillywhite, P. Marriott, L. Rogan, D. Stewart, J. Tuttle

Visitor: M. Kosovan

Apologies:

S. Curle, D. Dobrosak, G. Hogg

Ken Harris gave an illustrated talk entitled "Madagascar, insects and more". Ken's trip comprised Oxbridge alumni and was held at the end of the dry season. This meant that the flora had generally passed its flowering season and insects were more difficult to find. Due to a burgeoning population, and the practice of slash and burn agriculture replacing former vegetation with eucalypts, acacias and pines, the country outside of reserves was seriously degraded. Madagascar tends to be dry on the western side with higher rainfall in the east. The trip started at Antananarivo which is centrally located on the eastern coast and generally visited reserves in the southern half of the island.

As foreshadowed, the talk covered many vertebrate species, as well as the invertebrates, and some plants. We met varied representatives of chameleon, gecko, colubrid snake, frog, mongoose, lemur, birds, and flying fox. The majority of insects were Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths); probably beetles were next speciose with the families of Curculionidae, Gyrinidae, Scarabaeidae and Coccinellidae. There were also phasmids, a flatid bug, caddis fly a number of spiders and a dragonfly from the family Libellulidae. Many of the species shown were endemic to Madagascar.



Calumma oshaunessyi Oshaunessy's Chameleon

The President thanked Ken for an interesting and informative presentation. The accompanying photos are from Ken's talk

Minutes:

Minutes of the previous General Meeting [*Vic. Ent.* 41(2): 25-27] were accepted (m. Best; s. Stewart)

General Business:

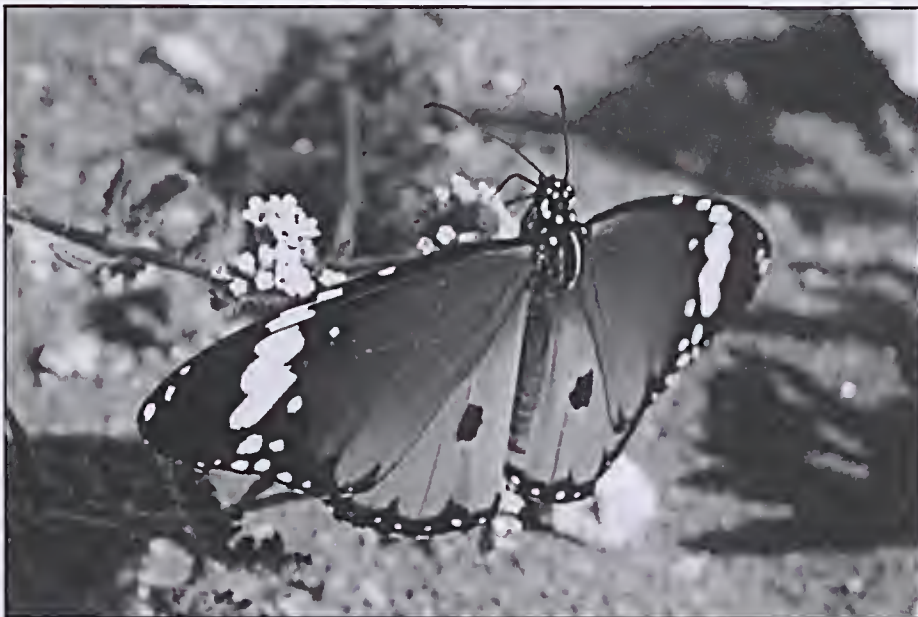
Membership:

Steven Law, Steve Holliday and James Wilson were proposed for membership at the previous General Meeting and elected this evening.

Butterfly Records:

Since a request at a previous meeting for atypical butterfly records, Kelvyn Dunn had received many responses, 120 of which he had collated. They comprised *Papilio aegus* (43); *Papilio demoleus* (36); *Catopsilia pyrauthe* (1); *Catopsila pomona* (1); *Eurema smilax* (5); *Polyura sempronius* (3); *Acraea andromacha* (1); *Danaus plexippus* (21); *Danaus chrysippus* (5); and *Euploea core* (4). Further contributions will result in further analyses. (see page 54 for details)

The meeting was closed at 21:30



Danaus chrysippus The Plain Tiger
or African Monarch



Saribia tepahi The Saribia Butterfly
is from an endemic genus of
metalmark in Madagascar

(Continued on page 50)

(Continued from page 49)



Microcebus griseorufus

The Reddish-gray Mouse Lemur also known as the Gray-brown Mouse Lemur or Rufous-gray Mouse Lemur

Falcullea palliata

The Sickle-billed Vanga is a species of bird in the Vangidae family. It is monotypic within the genus *Falcullea*. It is endemic to Madagascar



Utetheisa pulchella The Crimson spotted footman.

Utetheisa pulchelloides or Heliotrope Moth in Australia is named for its marked similarity to this species.



An Account of Rearing *Parapoynx villidalis* (Walker, 1859) Lepidoptera, Crambidae, Ascentropinae

Mike Halsey,

Yackandandah, Victoria. m.halsey@latrobe.edu.au



Fig.1b Site photo – Bellingen, NSW. Farm dam on
Hydes Creek, North Bank Rd



Fig 1a. *P. villidalis* adults 1b

Introduction

Among the aquatic Lepidoptera, the Australian fauna of the genus *Parapoynx* (Hübner, 1825) contains 15 species. These can be broadly grouped into:

Those (the majority) feeding on surface vegetation – lily pads, etc;

Those feeding on in-stream vegetation – *vallisneria* (ribbon weed), *myriophyllum*, etc.

The larvae of many of the lily pad feeders are virtually identical to the naked eye and accordingly being able to rear them to adult becomes important in order to establish species presence, absence and ultimately distribution. Rearing members of either group poses some practical difficulties in connection with water quality and particularly gradual rotting of vegetation that is used in the construction of pupal shelters. This short paper is prepared in this context and reports what may be the first successful rearing of *Parapoynx villidalis* from the egg.

The type locality for *P. villidalis* (adult - fig 1a) is Sarawak, Borneo. In Australia its known range is a coastal-littoral strip from mid-NSW to Queensland as far North as Cairns (this is based on data from the ANIC collection specimens, personal unpublished observations and personal communication with John Hawking (JH). Slightly inland of this range, JH has also collected larvae from Clarrie Hall Dam, NSW, altitude 103m). The larva feeds on lily pads and typical habitat is in still to slow-moving

water, either at the margins of rivers or in dams, both naturally occurring and on-farm. Based on collection data this species seems to be trivoltine in the southern parts of its range with adults on the wing in October (first annual brood), January-February (second brood) and again in April-May. Further north, it may be continually brooded. It is not known how the species passes the winter months when the lily leaves on which it feeds and in which it shelters die back.

Methods

Adult capture and egg-laying. A large number of adults (fig 1a) were taken at Bellingen, NSW (ref: 30°25.98S, 152°43.39E - refer site photo fig 1b) in mid January 2011. The adults were netted at the margins of the figured dam at and soon after dusk using a hand lamp. A retained female laid eggs readily in a small glass vial including a few drops of water to prevent the eggs drying.

Rearing. On hatching, 1st instar larvae (pro-larvae) were provided with fragments of lily leaves which were kept in a shallow dish and covered in water. The water was changed twice daily. After about 4 days, the fragments of lily were added to a small fish tank with a bubbler and some larger leaf pieces. The water was changed about every three days, before the fragments of leaf began to decay. This regime was maintained for about 5 weeks until the larvae were in their final instar, at which time they were transferred to growing food in a large bucket with oxygenation and some degree of filtration. At this stage (late March/ early April) pupal cases were removed from decaying leaves and kept on a permanently moistened paper towel. Where the case itself showed any signs of mould the pupa was removed and kept moist on the paper towel. Both pupae and cocoons on the paper towel were freshly moistened daily using a syringe; the paper towel was changed every three to four days. Rain water was used throughout the process - a previous experience using treated town water resulted in immediate mortality of larvae.

Observations

Eggs were laid on 22 January and hatched on 27 January. Images of larvae and pupae are shown at fig's 3 and 4 respectively. First instar larvae burrowed into the middle of the lily leaves. Second and third instar larvae formed a case by folding part of a leaf over or by attaching a separate piece of leaf to the main leaf. Final instar larvae were observed to cut out a piece of leaf and create a separate free-floating case in which they migrated from leaf to leaf. Larvae could be readily handled with soft-tipped forceps. The gill structure in mature *Parapoynx* larvae is described in Hawking (2001). This paper doesn't attempt to detail the structure of gills in immature larvae but notes simply that first instar larvae are without gills and in the early instar larvae the structure is simpler than in mature larvae in terms of number of gills and branching (fig. 2).

Pupation occurred in a case made by the larva fastening a loose piece of lily leaf to a growing leaf. A viable pupa was found at the bottom of the bucket in decayed leaves. In the newly formed pupa, the externally appended forelegs extend beyond the length of the abdomen. As the insect approaches emergence, the body was observed to lengthen such that it exceeded the length of the appended forelegs. All individuals that successfully pupated within a constructed cocoon emerged as adults; on the contrary, there was 100% mortality where the process of constructing a cocoon was interrupted by changing the food plant or water.

Six adults emerged between 4th and 17th April 2011. Total time between egg laying and adult emergence was between 72 and 85 days, being as egg (5 days), larva (approximately 40-45 days), pupa (approximately 27-35 days). The larval and pupal times are approximate as larvae were not maintained individually.

Conclusion

It was pleasing to be able to rear *P. villidalis* successfully to the adult stage. The larvae were robust and tolerant of frequent handling. The key to the successful rearing seems to be a combination of: using untreated water; frequent water changes during larval growth; using growing food at pupation in order to avoid both retaining pupae in association with decaying vegetation and handling mature larvae during cocoon construction.

References and further reading

Hawking (2001): *An Introduction to the Identification of Aquatic Caterpillars (Lepidoptera) Found in Australian Inland Waters*, CRC for Freshwater Ecology



Fig 2. *P. villidalis* larvae
(above left): 2nd instar,
(above right) 3rd instar,
(left) 4th instar, showing increasing gill number
and complexity of structure

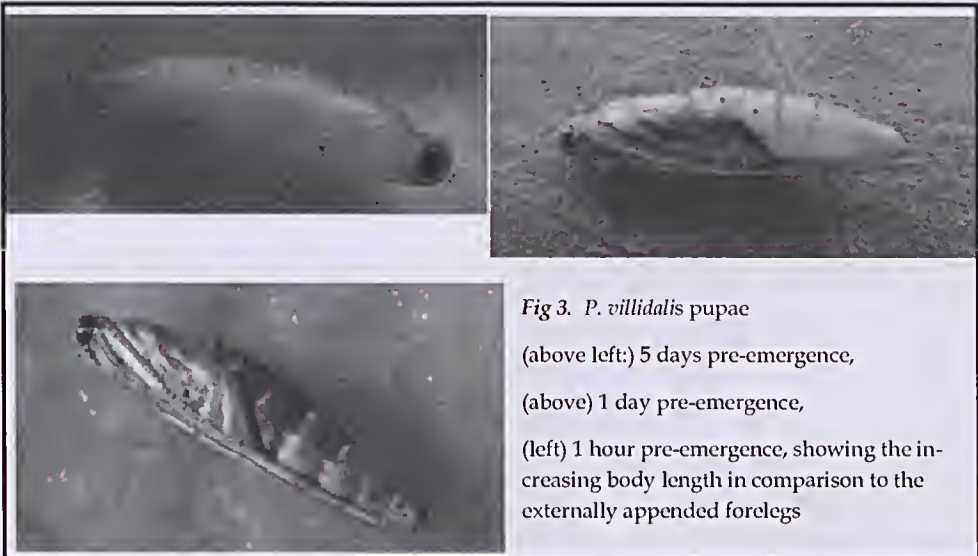


Fig 3. *P. villidalis* pupae
(above left:) 5 days pre-emergence,
(above) 1 day pre-emergence,
(left) 1 hour pre-emergence, showing the in-
creasing body length in comparison to the ex-
ternally appended forelegs

An update on some unusual butterfly records in Victoria during the 2010-2011 season

Kelvyn Dunn

Email: kelvyn_dunn@yahoo.com

At the December 2010 meeting I remarked on how the present season bore hallmarks of the 1974 event. That legendary season saw an astonishing number of rare butterfly visitors to central Victoria including Melbourne suburbs (as well as to other areas in eastern Australia). In parts of Victoria, many of these immigrants have not been seen in similar numbers again and a few have remained unrecorded since that time. So I called for members and readers of the *Victorian Entomologist* to submit any records of interest to me. The response has been very positive with over 120 unusual records compiled from within the state to date. This summary outlines only those reports from Victoria (but some records of interest have been supplied from the southeast of South Australia, from southern New South Wales, and from near Perth in Western Australia too).

The historic information presented below is based, for the most part, on museum specimens or field sightings in specialist literature. These I have extracted over the years as part of my database project, and as this data set is not exhaustive, other records will exist which I have not had access to at this time. What stands out as obvious though is the greater number of records for some visiting species compared with reports in the past. The reason is threefold. There exists a larger number of enthusiasts who observe and record butterflies today; the ease of photography with portable digital devices improves record-making; and the availability of sources (such as the Internet) to announce these records, means that the number of contemporary reports appears inflated by comparison. Obviously then, these high counts do not imply that this season was more significant than the 1974 event in terms of invasive numbers of butterflies, nor perhaps more significant than one or more of the earlier ones (of which we now know little of today). If one counts amongst those recent sightings the number of specimens that have been retained, one would likely find that the counts would then be more similar to the historic efforts, as few specimens are preserved for museums.

Opinions will likely differ as to what species are of distributional interest at either a state level or at a regional level within Victoria. From among the many hundreds of records of various species compiled over the current season (that being from September 2010-April 2011 inclusively), the list that follows provides counts for 12 species. These species are irregular or periodic migrants normally present in low numbers at such times or are species whose presence in the state is remarkable as a rare event. The counts are not the number of adults reported though; a single record can include one or more individuals (including juvenile stages) if these were seen on the same day at the same site (defined at one-minute resolution).



Figure 1. *E. smilax*. 4km NNW of Riddells Creek, Vic. 16 Jan 2011, R. Best; feeding at *Hypochaeris radiata* (Asteraceae) at 1433h DST (Photo R. Best).

Species	No. of records
<i>Papilio aegeus</i>	43 (includes 5 juveniles)
<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	36 (includes 1 juvenile)
<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	1*
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	1 (possible sighting)
<i>Eurema similax</i>	6**
<i>Polyura sempronius</i>	3 (includes 2 juvenile records)
<i>Acraea andromacha</i>	1
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	22 (includes 1 juvenile)
<i>Danaus petilia</i>	5
<i>Euploea core</i>	4

* Encountered in April 2010 (outside of the current seasonal parameter as defined)

** Includes one sighting from March 2010 (as above)

Additional species seen close to or beyond border regions of Victoria:

<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	2 seen at Mallacoota, Victoria
<i>Hypolimnys bolina</i>	1 seen in Albury West, NSW



Figure 2. *D. plexippus*. Mallacoota township, Vic. 22 Jan. 2011, R. Best; feeding at orange Buddlejia (Buddlejaceae) at 1044h DST (Photo R. Best).

Four visitors and the timings of prominent population expansions of these

Invasions of four of these species (namely, *E. core*, *P. demoleus*, *P. aegeus* & *C. pyranthe*) into the state over the last 140 years are examined below. The timings of these occurrences provide a measure of insight into the irregularity of these irruptions within species and suggest too that there may be correlations in timings across some species. The season of 1955, for example, stands out as a time of irruption for two of these and the 1974 season (as well as the present one) is common to all four of the selected examples. The first species (*E. core*) is a very rare visitor to northern Victoria and is examined at the state level (rather than a smaller subset of it) because its counts are low and because no region of the state can be considered as a source population for it. The remaining three species can be occasionally encountered in some distant parts of the state but each is rarely seen close to Melbourne. The central portion of Victoria, defined by a rectangular region given by 36-39° (latitude)

by 143-147° (longitude) inclusively, has been selected as an area of focus to examine influxes of the latter. This 3x4 degree region spans southward from the Wodonga area in the Murray Valley to near Tidal River on Wilsons Promontory and broadly ranges eastward from the Otway region towards Sale in South Gippsland. Melbourne and its suburbs are more or less centrally placed within it and some outlying cities are included too. Selection of a subregion means that yearly counts will be lowered for each species but use of a focus area helps eliminate those seasons in which appearances in the state were of limited expansiveness.

1. Common Crow butterfly, *E. core*; known appearances in Victoria (whole state)

Only two seasons or years have resulted in irruptions of this very conspicuous butterfly in the state. Based on the data compiled to date, the current seasonal count did not match well with the previous event for this species.

Years	Records
1974	19
2010-11	4

2. Chequered Swallowtail, *P. demoleus*; prominent appearances in central Victoria

Records of this conspicuous species in Victoria are plentiful, however eight seasons or years stand out where appearances seemed more noticeable (measured by at least two records per season) in the region defined. Where food plants are available localised colonies can form in Victoria. These could act as source populations of adults (for one or more seasons thereafter), lending to a wider dispersal into and extensively within the defined region as is seen from time to time.

Years	Records
1872-73	3
1917	2
1954-55	3
1968	2
1973-74	15
1976-77	5
2001	2
2010-11	31

3. Orchard butterfly, *P. aegaeus*; recorded appearances in central Victoria

Records of this very large butterfly in Victoria, which is conspicuous in flight and unmistakable when seen, are few and far between. It appears to have maintained a breeding presence in the remote east of the state, where at Mallacoota it has been regularly reported now for over a decade. Elsewhere, its appearance is often met with astonishment by those observers familiar only with the local suite of smaller butterflies. For this season, most if not all adults reported were described as very worn and/or in tatty condition. In the defined region adults have been encountered in the following years or seasons.

Years	Records
1959	1
1971-72	3
1974	9
1987	2
1998	1
2010-11	37

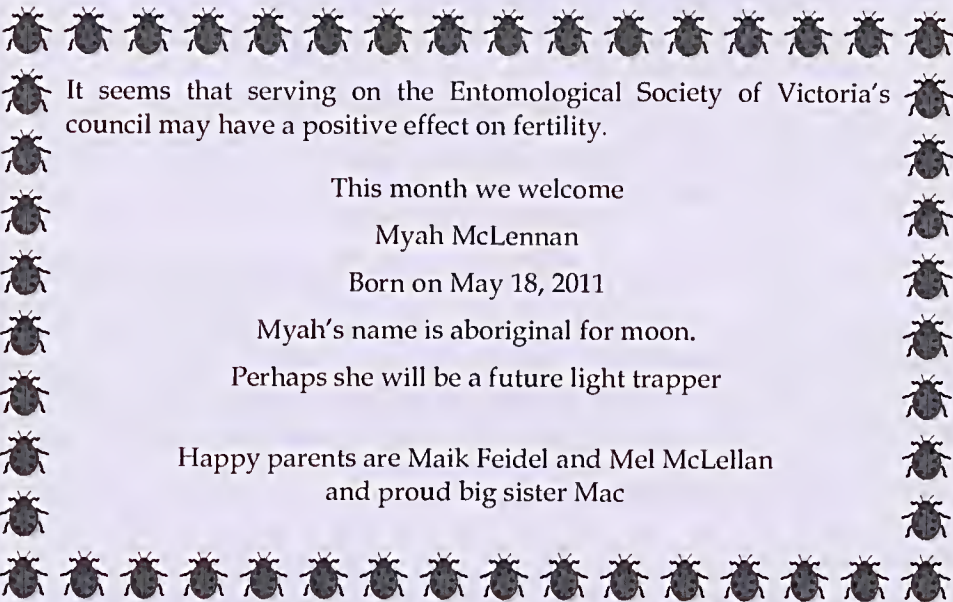
4. White Migrant, *C. pyranthe*; recorded appearances in central Victoria.

This species is more often seen in the northwest of the state, but even in that region it is still a rare encounter. Eight seasons or years are known for remarkable irruptions of this butterfly that have extended into central Victoria. In one year it appeared in surprising numbers, with an influx of adults of the pale form (with pink antennae) into the Portsea area of Mornington Peninsula.

Summary: Each visiting species has its own history of expansions, with incursions south that sometimes coincide with other species presences. It is supposed that this wetter-than-usual cycle will continue into spring, and so more interesting records might be expected over the next season too. Again, I would encourage members and readers to continue to add to the baseline of records (now over 149,500 on file) by their supply of any observations of butterflies from anywhere in Australia. In doing so, please watch for any unusual presences or any remarkable local abundance of certain species.

Years	Records
1904	2
1908	2
1920	1
1928-29	3
1955	28
1959	1
1974	1
2010	(1 cusp record from Kerang, which lies very close to the defined area)

Acknowledgments: I thank the many enthusiasts who contributed records to various sources from which these counts were compiled. All photos used to supplement this report have been reproduced courtesy of Nature share. <http://natureshare.org.au> (Rights reserved by photographers).



It seems that serving on the Entomological Society of Victoria's council may have a positive effect on fertility.

This month we welcome

Myah McLennan

Born on May 18, 2011

Myah's name is aboriginal for moon.

Perhaps she will be a future light trapper

Happy parents are Maik Feidel and Mel McLellan
and proud big sister Mac



Entomological Society of Victoria

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Entomological-Society-of-Victoria/115673388448134?ref=sgm>

Some of you may have noticed in the council meeting minutes that we have been experimenting with having a Facebook page for the society.

I was hoping that this may provide the society with a more interactive experience during those periods where we are all waiting for the publication to drop through the letterbox.

We have seen a slow uptake of the page, being quite new and finding its feet. But now we have 48 people that 'Like' the page. In doing so, I believe they receive on their Facebook wall, updates when the page has a new posting or comments have been updated.

I post interesting (sometimes even humorous) entomological news articles on the page when I come across them - and encourage other members to do so as well. People can also post on here questions, pictures etc in the hope that a likeminded entomologist may know something about the critter or query that they have. Of the articles that have been posted this year:

- Identification help for some household critters
- Information regarding "Canadian Lepidoptera barcoding project on Alan Brough show ABC 774 later this morning"
- News articles on "Deadly mosquito virus spreads in WA", "Butterfly thriving in Cotswolds", "Is the Cellphone Killing the Honeybee?", "New Insect Repellent is 'Thousands of Times' More Effective Than DEET", "Odonata Beer Co. shuts down - sacbee.com", "Peacock spider", "Digging up the dirt on dung beetles - Manning River Times" and "Mosquito-eating spider likes smelly socks".
- Identification help regarding "dark orange coloured chrysalis buried in the soil alongside the path"

Anyone can 'join' / 'like' the Facebook page. As with all these interactive things, the more people that join, the more everyone gets out of it.

You never know, you may be the person helping someone else identify that mysterious critter on their garden ☺

I hope to see you online one day.

Steve Curle
Hon Secretary

Anecdotal isn't Enough

Ian Endersby

56 Looker Road Montmorency Vic 3094

A number of reports of increased numbers of spiders, dragonflies and mosquitoes raised speculation at the February 2011 meeting on what might be the cause.

Mosquitoes can complete a generation in a month or thereabouts, so it is not surprising that current rainfall can bring a flush of adults from the increased pools and containers of water that result. For them, clearly, the aquatic habitat is the limiting factor. Dragonflies have a longer life cycle. The specimens we see today were probably laid as eggs one or even two years ago. So what was special about this cohort? Were their mothers abnormally fecund? Has there been 12 months of good habitat and plentiful food for aquatic larvae? Have larval predators been fewer, or sated on some other prey this past year? Was there a better than average emergence success? Have the adults this season experienced better food availability, or have predation rates been lower?

There are some provocative words amongst all those questions: "abnormally", "plentiful", "better", "lower", "average". Without some record of what occurs during each time period of an insect's life, we are really only guessing. Memory is fickle. We can't remember back a year to see what the dragonfly oviposition conditions were and our belief that this is the best season ever is anchored on relatively recent years.

We need recorded observations made in a relatively consistent manner; then we can say with more confidence that, for example, this season's "outbreak" of *Utetheisa pulchelloides* is noteworthy, because we will have the records to support our supposition.

The Council and, particularly the Editor, urge you to keep, and publish in the *Victorian Entomologist*, observations of unusual occurrences, irruptions, migrations and any other phenomena that rouse your interest. At the very least, record species, date, an estimate of number, direction of flight (if applicable) and unusual behaviours.

Remember: Memory is Fickle; Anecdotal is not enough.

Recent Observations

Some unusual butterfly records for the Mornington Peninsula

David Holmes - Mt Martha

"I always have a net to catch *Pieris rapae* near my cabbage patch. To my surprise I captured *Telicota amsodesua* on 2.2.2011, along with *Trapezites symnemonus soma* that breed on the sword grass in nature strips and shopping centres. The following day I went to pick my climbing beans and there was another perfect *Telicota*. However, I was a little slow and did not net it.

Also, earlier in the year, *Eurema smilax* flew into my front garden. I was unable to capture it as I did not have my net."

Recent Observations

Spider count at Dunkeld

Ken Harris

At Easter the family went to our property in Dunkeld. On Easter Monday, (a very still and sunny day), I observed hundreds, (possibly thousands) of strands of web floating in the sky. Some very low, some at the limit of vision. Some of these were more than a single strand, more like a floating web. I noticed many had a spider attached. Late afternoon we decided to go to the golf course and show all the roos that congregate there to the grandchildren. I counted 64 spiders on my vehicle as we were about to board it. At the golf course we were walking one of the fairways and I noticed that when you looked into the sun, which was quite low, you could see a carpet of web strands highlighted along the fairway. I moved back and forth and along this fairway and the whole fairway was covered. I did a rough estimate of the density of the web strands per sq metre and it was roughly 50/sq metre. The fairway was 400 x 40 metres which extrapolates to roughly 800,000 web strands on this fairway alone. There was no reason to suppose the very faint breeze had caused them to favour this fairway which indicates the web strands were in some millions. How unusual is this? I certainly have never seen this sort of thing before.

Response from Ian Endersby.

Hello Ken,

There have been quite a lot of people noting the high prevalence of spiders, dragonflies and mosquitoes this season, as well as records of uncommon butterflies this far south. Mosquitoes I can understand as they have a generation time of about a month and there are lots more pools of water since the onset of the rains. To find a cause for dragonflies is more difficult as they have a lifetime of at least a year with the bulk of that being aquatic larvae. None of us can remember back a year (unless we keep rigorous field notes) to see if the mothers of this year's batch of flying insects were more fecund than normal. Probably the amount and quality of their watery habitats has been much improved, including food resources, so there has been a higher survival and emergence rate of larvae. Spiders are a bit harder to categorise: higher fecundity, better nutrition and lower predation have all been postulated, and probably it is a mix of all three. There are people suggesting that the loss of woodland birds has removed one source of predation on insects. Perhaps the spiders are taking over the bird predator niche - but now I am only fantasising.

To answer your question more directly - this year seems to be unusual in the number and volume of spider ballooning events that have been recorded. However, I can remember photographs from many years ago when acres of web were noted. (You can tell how old that is because hectares hadn't been invented in Australia at the time). The last 13 years of drought in Victoria obviously had a strong negative effect on invertebrate populations.

We can only get a handle on these population dynamics if we keep long-term records of irruptions and dearths, something that has been done only spasmodically by a dedicated few in the invertebrate community. The Entomological Society of Victoria is planning to collate observations such as yours so that there is a better data base for future research. I will copy your note to the Editor and, unless you would rather not have them published, she will probably include them in a future issue.

Vespula germanica(Fabricius)(Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Vespinae)



For information on identification see the following:

<http://www.padil.gov.au/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136373>

Photos from PaDIL website, with permission.



An Environmentally Friendly way to help control European Wasp
From Laurie Nicoll of Metcalfe, Victoria laurie@shamp.com.au

This is a brief out line of my 15 + years research results and thoughts on Euro wasps -

The queens hibernate during winter (coming out in October) ,looking for food and a nesting spot. She needs food while creating nest,making cells,feeding first grubs, until the nest is self sufficientI've found by reducing the number of queen wasps before they can make a nest in turn greatly reduces the number in Feb/March. The catch is not 100%; some will not be caught and go on to make nests but I have found the number of wasp nests on my patch has reduced since I've been using this method

Method

Use a 1.25 soft drink bottle drill 3 holes about 8mm dia, about 100mm from bottom of bottle

Bait- Mix up 5 tablespoons of honey with a little pure vanilla essence ,as this seems to help the process [not vanilla extract] in 2 cups of boiling water This mix diluted with water will be sufficient for 4-5 traps. I have heard wine and other sweet smelling baits will also work but I have not tried these baits



Also its illegal to put honey unless it has been irradiated (can be done in Microwave I believe) into environment but anything that gets caught in traps does not get out!

Pour small amount of mix into bottles fill with water up to 10mm from holes ,replace lid and hang trap in a sunny spot in garden. Will take a few days to activate

Check trap when passing and give a shake let bait dribble out holes

Keep traps active until Jan - Feb 2011, after then you will only catch workers from an established nest ,which can be found and destroyed

If all of your readers put up one trap during the Oct -Dec I'm sure most will catch queens ,which are easily identified , they are larger than a normal worker wasp and generally the only ones around at this time, unless a nest has survived from last year

If your readers who are concerned about the wasp problem in their area ,would support this project and report back to me any catches they have and later on in Feb/March and report back on wasp numbers, to continue my research.

Other insects may also be lured to trap, at the moment flies . Ants will sometimes be attracted . If there are any concerns re insects caught do test run if not happy with results remove trap!!!

We will never eradicate the euro wasp but we can slow them down

Minutes of the Council Meeting 22 March 2011

Present: I. Endersby, P. Marriott, P. Carwardine, S. Curle, L. Rogan, M. Fiedel

Apologies: K. Walker, D. Stewart, P. Lillywhite, D. Dobrosak

Minutes: Minutes of the Council Meeting [Vic.Ent. 40(3): 55-60] were accepted, P. Carwardine moved, seconded S.Curle.

Correspondence:

A request for sponsorship to the Science Talent Search which involved a bursary of \$70 to the winner. I. Endersby moved, seconded P. Marriott.

The society has received Vol 50 part 1 Australian Journal of Entomology and Myrmecia vol 47, part 1.

Treasurers Report:

General account \$7036, Le Souëf account \$5573, publication \$13461.

Approximately 36 members still un-financial.

Term deposit has been renewed for 6 months at 5.8%

General Business:

Debate on Population Ecology

This arose at the last meeting; request to give some solutions as to why there were more spiders in the bush at Bendigo. I. Endersby has proposed that you can't look at these individually but need to look at the whole ecology. And perhaps a panel or 2 maybe the way to go to discuss these issues. I. Endersby to follow up.

Publications

MOV 3 & 4: Both still in the pipeline and on schedule for later this year.

MOV 5,6 and 7 are mapped out. Work has begun on the Ennominae. 70 species out of 200 completed. Noctuidae, about 50% done. Cossidae and allies are started.

It was discussed that perhaps there should be a launch of some sort for MOV 3. Discussion was around press release and how we would go about this.

It was motioned that P. Marriott be able to set the price, acknowledging the cost of publications, for the forthcoming MOV publications.

Colour options for the Victorian Entomologist. The council is investigating the options of moving to a completely colour magazine and are exploring cost options. Quotes are currently being sought to enable a cost comparison and to review the financials for doing so. A Melbourne based printing establishment may make the logistics of printing a little easier. Other options being considered, hard card cover vs soft cover options; plastic (recyclable) or paper envelopes. We are currently favouring paper vs card; and quotes are being sought.

It was agreed that if we make the change to colour, we would make the change at the start of the next volume.

Observations

It was discussed that we have been getting a number of sightings and observations reported to us; predominantly butterflies though other families as well. A perpetual table was envisaged. I. Endersby has agreed to put together an article to set the scene for the table collate this information; with a subsequent page heading for recent observations, new records etc from both members, press or wherever the source maybe.

Amendments to Constitution

The motion for the amendments to the constitution was passed at the February 2011 meeting.
I. Endersby to now submit the change to the government department of business affairs.

AGM Agenda

I. Endersby has offered to bring together the agenda and the call for office bearers ahead of this years AGM.

2011 Schedule

August 16th Meeting

There are changes taking place in Parks Vic. S.Curle to speak with Parks to see invite them to talk at this meeting.

M. Fiedel to verify how long we would need for such a presentation and the logistics for August.

December 13th Meeting

The December meeting needs the finer details to be ironed out. T. Barberi would like to present on photographic methods.

Meeting closed 19:00

Minutes of the Council Meeting 17 May 2011

Present: I. Endersby, P. Marriott, P. Carwardine, S. Curle, L. Rogan, M. Fiedel, P. Lilly-white

Apologies: K. Walker, D. Stewart, D. Dobrosak

Minutes: Minutes of the March Council Meeting 2011 were not available in time for the publication.

Correspondence:

Treasurers Report:

General account \$6328, Le Souëf account \$5504, publication \$14489.

Approximately 18 members still un-financial – down from 36

Editors report:

D. Dobrosak will be putting together the August edition. Next deadline is the 15th July.

L. Rogan to send out requests for more diverse material and photos.

We currently have sufficient material for the June edition.

Colour option: P. Marriott to follow up further with ImpactDigital

Facebook: S.Curle to produce a small introduction for the Facebook page into our publication.

General Business:

Publication of Previous Editions

Other societies and organisations are making available electronically, old issues of their publications. Thus there was much debate around the potential to electronically publish and make searchable on the Internet, previous older publications of the societies bulletins.

If we were to go down this route, it would be to the older editions. We discussed a range of options defining 'older publications' - from 1 to 5 years

We have all of the Wings n Stings that have been digitised. I. Enderby to ascertain if his new software could make it searchable.

S.Curle to follow up electronic images or older copies and the status with D. Dobrosak.

Publications

MOV 3: Nearing completion and will be the same price as previous MOV publications.

Observations

We are currently looking into opportunities to link our website with other online nature recording schemes. Watch this space...

Amendments to Constitution

New membership application form prepared to be used and published on the website

2011 Schedule

There are changes taking place in Parks Vic. S.Curle to speak with Parks to see invite them to talk at a future meeting.

August 16th Meeting

M. Fiedel to check on Tiziano Barberi's presentation on macro photography which will be scheduled for the next Member's Presentation night

December 13th Meeting

The December meeting needs the finer details to be ironed out. T. Barberi would like to present on photographic methods.

Meeting closed 19:00

Next meetings:

If you are planning to attend any of these meetings; please refer to the website for any last minute amendments.

2011:			
<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Planned event</i>	
June:	21 st	General meeting	Members Presentations
July:	19 th	Council meeting	
August:	16 th	Members excursion	TBC
September:	20 th	Council meeting	
October:	18 th	General meeting	Members Presentations
November:	15 th	Council meeting	
December:	13 th	General meeting	BBQ and Moth Collecting. Warrandyte looking favourable. Please note, December's meeting date is the second Tuesday of December to try and avoid Christmas celebrations

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST

The Society welcomes contributions of articles, papers or notes pertaining to any aspect of entomology for publication in this Bulletin. Contributions are not restricted to members but are invited from all who have an interest. Material submitted should be responsible and original. The Editor reserves the right to have articles refereed. Statements and opinions expressed are the responsibility of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.

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Contributions may be typed on A4 paper or sent to the Hon. editor in *Microsoft Word for Windows* with an enclosed hard copy. The main text of the news bulletin is prepared in 8 point, *Book Antiqua* font (please do not use fixed point paragraph spacing). Contributions may *preferably* be E-mailed to Internet address: editor@entsocvic.org.au

The deadline for each issue is the third Friday of each odd month.

The Society's Home Page on the World Wide Web is located at:

www.entsocvic.org.au

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The charge for advertising is \$5.00 per half page.

The *Victorian Entomologist* is printed at Minuteman Press Melbourne, 337 Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne, 3000, Telephone 03 9670 4533

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DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

Tuesday June 21 General Meeting
Member's Presentations

Tuesday August 16
Council Meeting

Scientific names contained in this document are *not* intended for permanent scientific record, and are not published for the purposes of nomenclature within the meaning of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, Article 8(b). Contributions may be refereed, and authors alone are responsible for the views expressed.